



King Abdulaziz University
Comprehensive Library for students of English
College Writing 3 (LANE 213)
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Paragraph Structure

تكوين الفقرة

الفقرات

Paragraphs

- ☒ In many languages, the fundamental unit of composition is the paragraph. ☒ في العديد من اللغات، الوحدة الأساسية للتأليف هي الفقرة.
- ☒ A paragraph consists of several sentences that are grouped together. This group of sentences together discuss **one** main subject. ☒ الفقرة تتكون من عدة جمل وتكون مجتمعة سوياً.
- ☒ In formal academic English, paragraphs have three principal parts. ☒ في الإنجليزية الأكاديمية الرسمية، الفقرات لها ثلاثة أجزاء رئيسية:
 - ❖ The topic sentence, ❖ جملة الموضوع.
 - ❖ Body sentences, ❖ جمل الجسد للفقرة.
 - ❖ The concluding sentence. ❖ الجملة الختامية.

The Three Parts of a Paragraph

الأجزاء الثلاثة للفقرة

- ☒ All paragraphs have
 - a topic sentence
 - supporting details
 - some paragraphs have a concluding sentence
- جملة الموضوع
- التفاصيل المساندة
- بعض الفقرات تملك جملة ختامية

جملة الموضوع

Topic Sentence

- ☒ A topic sentence usually comes at the beginning of a paragraph; that is, it is usually the first sentence in a formal academic paragraph. ☒ جملة الموضوع تأتي عادةً عند بداية الفقرة، وعادةً تكون هي الجملة الأولى في الفقرة الأكاديمية الرسمية.
 - ☒ States the main idea of the paragraph. ☒ تذكر الفكرة الرئيسية للفقرة.
 - ☒ The sentence introduces an overall idea that you want to discuss later in the paragraph. ☒ تقدم الجملة فكرة عامة عما تريد مناقشته لاحقاً في الفقرة.
 - ☒ For example, suppose that you want to write a paragraph about the natural landmarks of your hometown. The topic sentence of your paragraph might look like this: ☒ يحدد الموضوع لمنطقة محددة واحدة والتي يمكن مناقشتها في فقرة فردية - الفكرة المسيطرة
 - ☒ يجب أن تكون الجملة كاملة.
 - ☒ الموضوع + الفكرة المسيطرة.
 - ☒ أن لا يكون مُحدد جداً.
 - ☒ أن لا يكون عام جداً.
 - ☒ يجب أن تكون جملة الموضوع جيدة.
- My hometown is famous for several amazing natural features.
- ☒ Limits the topic to one specific area that can be discussed in a single paragraph = **controlling idea**
-Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics.

- ☒ Must be a complete sentence
 - * How to register for college classes.
 - * Driving on freeways
- ☒ Topic + controlling idea
 - Driving on freeways requires skill and alertness.
 - Registering for college classes can be a frustrating experience for new students.
- ☒ Not too specific
 - The slang expression so long (meaning good-bye) is probably a corruption of the Arabic salaam.
- ☒ Not too general
 - English has been influenced by other languages.
- ☒ Good topic sentence
 - The Arabic origin of many English words is not always obvious.

▪ Here are some examples of sentences that cannot be used as topic sentences.

Can you figure out why they are inappropriate?

- My hometown is famous because it is located by Wheaton River, which is very wide, and because it is built near an unusually steep hill called Wheaton Hill.
- There are two reasons why some people like to buy cars with automatic transmission and two reasons why others like cars with manual transmission.
- Clouds are white.
- My hometown is famous for several amazing geographical features.
- There are two reasons why some people like to buy cars with automatic transmission.
- There are two reasons why some people like cars with manual transmission.
- The shapes of clouds are determined by various factors.

Supporting Sentences

الجمل المسيطرة

- ☒ Consider again the above-mentioned, short paragraph:
 - My hometown, Wheaton, is famous for several amazing natural features. First, it is noted for the Wheaton River, which is very wide and beautiful. Also, on the other side of the town is Wheaton Hill, which is unusual because it is very steep.
- ☒ When a reader reads a topic sentence, such as (*My hometown, Wheaton, is famous for several amazing natural features*), a **question** should usually appear in the reader's mind.
- ☒ In this case, the question should be like, "What are the natural features that make Wheaton famous?" The reader should then expect that the rest of the paragraph will give an answer to this question.
- ☒ The second sentence in the paragraph, *First, it is noted for the Wheaton River, which is very wide and beautiful*, gives an answer to this question. That is, the second sentence gives some explanation for the fact that Wheaton is a famous town.
- ☒ The third sentence also gives some explanation for the fact that Wheaton is famous by giving another example of an "amazing natural feature," in this case, Wheaton Hill.
- ☒ The second and third sentences are called **supporting sentences**.
- ☒ They are called "supporting" because they "support," or explain, the idea expressed in the topic sentence.
- ☒ Paragraphs in English often have more than two supporting ideas. The paragraph above is actually a very short paragraph.

☒ الجمل الثانية والثالثة تسمى ((الجمل المساندة)) .

☒ تسمى مساندة لأنها تدعم أو تشرح الفكرة الموضحة في جملة الموضوع.

☒ الفقرات في الانجليزي تملك أحياناً أكثر من فكرتين مساندتين.

At minimum, you should have at least five to seven sentences in your paragraph

كحد أدنى، يجب أن يكون لديك على الأقل ٥ إلى ٧ جمل في فقرتك

My hometown is famous for several amazing natural features. First, it is noted for the Wheaton River, which is very wide and beautiful. Also, on the other side of the town is Wheaton Hill, which is unusual because it is very steep. The third amazing feature is the Big Old Tree. This tree stands two hundred feet tall and is probably about six hundred years old.

These three landmarks are truly amazing and make my hometown a famous place.

- ☒ The short paragraph in this lesson is a fairly complete paragraph, but it lacks details.
- ☒ Whenever possible, you should include enough details in your paragraphs to help your reader understand exactly what you are writing about.
- ☒ Three natural landmarks are mentioned, but we do not know very much about them.

A paragraph

My hometown is famous for several amazing natural features. First, it is noted for the Wheaton River, which is very wide and beautiful. **On either side of this river, which is 175 feet wide, are many willow trees which have long branches that can move gracefully in the wind. In autumn the leaves of these trees fall and cover the riverbanks like golden snow.** Also, on the other side of the town is Wheaton Hill, which is unusual because it is very steep. **Even though it is steep, climbing this hill is not dangerous, because there are some firm rocks along the sides that can be used as stairs. There are no trees around this hill, so it stands clearly against the sky and can be seen from many miles away.** The third amazing feature is the Big Old Tree. This tree stands two hundred feet tall and is probably about six hundred years old. These three landmarks are truly amazing and make my hometown a famous place.

Concluding Sentence

- ☒ In formal paragraphs you will sometimes see a sentence at the end of the paragraph which summarizes the information that has been presented.
- ☒ Signals the end of the paragraph and leaves the reader with important points to remember.

الجملة الختامية

- ☒ في الفقرات الرسمية سوف ترى أحياناً جملة في نهاية الفقرة والتي تلخص المعلومات التي قدمت.
- ☒ إشارات نهاية الفقرة وترك القارئ مع النقاط المهمة للتذكير.

Exercises

✚ Write a good topic sentence for the following titles.

- My Hobbies.
- My Life as a University Student.
- The Library.
- The Student Cafeteria.
- My mother.
- My House.
- Red Sea Mall.